



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

LES FRANÇAIS EN AMÉRIQUE PENDANT LA GUERRE
DE L'INDÉPENDANCE DES ÉTATS-UNIS.

We have received from Mr. Thomas Willing Balch the advance sheets of a translation of his father's work which appeared under the above title in 1872, and we are happy to inform our readers that it is to be followed by a supplementary volume, which Mr. Thomas Balch had fortunately completed before his death.

Those who have read the book before us in French will remember that the opening chapters are devoted to a brief and well-digested sketch of the rise and progress of the Revolution. Into this part the translator has incorporated portions of a paper contributed by Mr. Balch to the *Presbyterian Quarterly Review*, July, 1876, entitled "Calvinism and American Independence." More than half the volume is devoted to the movements of the allied armies, and its value can be appreciated when it is said that it is chiefly drawn from the narratives of French officers, few of which have been printed. Among these are the "Journal of the Count Ménonville," the "Memoirs of Dupetit-Thouars," the "Journal of Cromot-Dubourg," an "Anonymous Journal of a Soldier," a "Memoir" addressed by Choiseul to Louis XV., and the "Memoirs of the Count de M——," a very rare book, printed in Paris in 1828. Besides other authorities, better known, Mr. Balch had the use of manuscripts preserved in the Archives de la Guerre and the Archives de la Marine. Those portions of his work which relate to the march of the armies from New York to Virginia and to the siege of Yorktown are excellent.

Besides giving us detailed accounts of the movements of the troops, the book furnishes us with the impressions made upon the minds of the writers of the journals and some incidents that are very interesting. As the French troops passed through Philadelphia on their way to Yorktown they were reviewed by the President and a committee of Con-

gress. As the troops were defiling before them, with their respective commanders at their head, the President asked Rochambeau whether he should salute or not; the general answered that when the troops passed before the king, his Majesty kindly condescended to salute them. As they were paying the same honors to Congress as to the king, a writer says, the "thirteen members took off their thirteen hats at every salutation by a flag or an officer." Cromot-Dubourg was delighted with the attentions he met with in Philadelphia. He was entertained, with others, at the houses of the French Minister, Luzerne, and the President of Congress. At the latter, he says, "was a turtle that I considered perfect, and which might weigh from sixty to eighty pounds." He described Anthony Benezet as the most zealous Quaker in Philadelphia. "I talked with him for some time; he seemed to me permeated with the excellence of his morality; he is little, old, and ugly, but he is truly a worthy man, and his face bears the stamp of a tranquil soul and a calm conscience." The city, he says, "is large and pretty well built; the streets are very wide and are laid out by rule and line; on both sides there are foot-walks for pedestrians; there are a large number of shops richly stocked and the city is very lively, for there are at least forty thousand inhabitants. In Market Street there are two immense halls built of brick, one of which is devoted to butchers' stalls. I found no other fault with them except that they are in the middle of a superb street which they entirely disfigure. The port may, perhaps, be about two miles long. It is merely a quay with nothing handsome about it but its length. There are several handsome Protestant churches and a college of some size, which is called a University." In the museum of Du Simitière he was surprised to see, in the midst of a crowd of interesting things, an old pair of stout boots, and could not refrain from asking Du Simitière whether they were objects of curiosity. Du Simitière replied that "they had always attracted the attention of Americans, because they had never seen any but these, and that, perceiving their astonishment, he had allowed them to pass for the boots of Charles XII."

"But it is probable," Dubourg added, "that after the passage of the French army the stout boots ceased to be an extraordinary object for the Americans."

When the allied armies marched from Philadelphia, Rochambeau took a boat and went down the Delaware to see the defences of the river. As he approached Chester he saw Washington upon the bank waving his hat with demonstrations of great joy. He said that he had just heard from Baltimore that De Grasse had arrived in Chesapeake Bay, with twenty-eight ships of the line and three thousand men, whom he had already landed and who had gone to join La Fayette, who had confined Cornwallis in Yorktown. "I was as much astonished as moved," wrote a French officer, "at the truly genuine and pure joy of General Washington. Of a cold temperament and a grave and noble bearing which in him is nothing but true dignity, and which is so becoming in the head of a nation, his features, his physiognomy, his bearing, all were changed in an instant; he divested himself of his character as the arbiter of North America and was satisfied for a moment with that of a citizen, happy in the happiness of his country. A child, all of whose wishes had been gratified, could not have experienced a more lively sensation, and I believe I am doing honor to this rare man by endeavoring to describe all the vivacity of them."

Another officer wrote, "I cannot too often repeat how astonished I have been at the American army; it is inconceivable that troops nearly naked, badly paid, and composed of old men, negroes, and children should march so well, both on the road and under fire. I have shared this astonishment with M. de Rochambeau himself, who spoke of it to us continually on our way back [to camp]. I have no need to speak of General Washington's composure; it is well known: but this great man is a thousand times more noble and glorious when at the head of his army than at any other time."

From the pages of this book we also learn of the jealousy the officers who came over under Rochambeau felt towards La Fayette, whose commission of major-general in the American army made him outrank many who were his

seniors at home. They agreed among themselves that under no circumstances would they serve under him; and when the Duke de Lauzun, who preferred activity to idleness, offered to waive the point of honor and accompany La Fayette to Virginia, he was severely censured by his brother officers, and Rochambeau, to prevent trouble, refused him permission. La Fayette wisely made every effort to avoid exciting the susceptibilities of his countrymen upon this point. He must, however, have keenly enjoyed the opportunity that was afforded him to retaliate for this and other slights that had been put upon him. Two redoubts before Yorktown were to be stormed,—one by the French, the other by the Americans. The Baron de Vioménil directed the operations of the former, La Fayette those of the latter. Fortunately for La Fayette, the Americans met with less resistance than the French, which enabled him, after having accomplished his work, to send his compliments to De Vioménil and ask if he needed any assistance from the Americans. Colonel Barber, who carried the message, was slightly wounded while doing so, but he would not suffer his wound to be dressed until he had delivered it.

The work will be published by Messrs. Porter & Coates.

The supplementary volume will be particularly devoted to,—

1st. To historical notices of the French regiments which crossed to America and served there.

2d. To biographical notices of the French volunteers who took service under Congress, and of the principal officers who were present at the sieges of Savannah and Yorktown, or who fought on land or sea for the independence of the United States.

3d. To many episodes and interesting details, among which will be found a sketch of American society at that period, as it appeared to the French officers, who speak in their manuscripts and letters of the private life of a great number of notable American families.

Its appearance will be looked for with interest by all students of our revolutionary history.